MASON'S

MONTHLY

Coin and Stamp

COLLECTORS'





MAGAZINE

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Vol. II.

NOVEMBER, 1868.

No. 8.

ANTIQUARIAN RESEARCHES IN NORTH AMERICA.

By M. W. DICKESON, M. D.

Number II.—Continued.

with his head compressed, and three, there more than one flat head among fourths of an ineh thick. Around the neck lay two pieces of pottery, one a



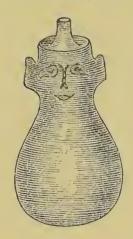
basin, and the other a jug, the neek carved into the form of an Indian's head, with the opening at the mouth. On the ehest lay several implements of war, paints, mullers, and a beautifully earved pipe; in front of the bowl stands a bear, well executed.

Several skeletons, promiscuously thrown together, without regard to position, heading each way, were the next which attracted our attention, and were no doubt the common order, from their careless burial. We examined several heads, but did not find instance finding pottery about the weapons, as they would, if they had

The fifth was a male of large stature, ture, belonging to the female; nor were them.

> The bodies now became very numerous, so much so, as to forbid minute examination at the time, the broken remains of thirty bodies being exposed. They lay in lines (except the last deseribed group) and pairs, facing each other without any regard to sex, as their position would lead to suppose. We found as often a pair of males, as a male and female.

> The day beginning to decline, we hurried through the examination of the bodies remaining, and in every



one showing evidence of fracture from neck, but mostly broken, as the mere pressure of the earth had fractured been eaptive foes. Neither was there many of the finest specimens. Out of the conformation or delicacy of struc- about ninety specimens dug up, thirtytwo only were obtained whole. Many more might have been saved, had they been left several hours exposed to the sun, and allowed to harden before they were displaced; but, in the earth, at the slightest touch they crumbled to pieces. The vessels found with the females were, in most eases, upside down and empty.

The number generally found with each subject varied from two to four. In the case of the dwarf, however, there were seven, and they of more finished workmanship than others. This fact, with the circumstance of the quantity of burnt bones found with him, seems to designate him as a personage of some importance among his tribe. Whether he was a prophet or a pot maker, seems a doubtful point. The weapons of war, and the stone ornaments did not differ much in material. The spear and arrow points were of chalcedony, navaeulite, quartz, agate, &c., and a selacious rock, filled with the fossil remains of the Enerinite, Orthocerate, &c. The remarkable conformation of the head above described, shows that its owner might have been a captive; or a medicine man, tortured by a cunning mother, in infancy, to give him a strange appearance, and instructed, through youth up to manhood in all the arts and influences needful to sway the benighted and superstitious mind of his race.

We gathered up our relies and took a kind farewell of our friend; mounted our horses and made for the town.

Thus ended the day's exploration of this old and eurious record of the existence of a dead nation.

FOSSIL SKULLS.

Among the subjects discussed at the recent meeting at Chicago of the American Association for the Ad-

vancement of Science, was that of the Fossil Human Skull. A paper on the "Fossil human skull of Calaveras county, California," by professor J. D. Whitney, was read.

The professor exhibited the piece of skull in question, which consisted of a section comprising the face, and running diagonally across, so as to include one ear eavity. The upper and back portion of the skull were lost, as was one side. With the skull were exhibited several bones from other portions of the human body, which were found in connection with the skull. The Professor proceeded to discuss the evidenee as to its position in the rocks, and concluded that the skull had really been found in such a position as to warrant the belief that the lava strata above it had been deposited since the skull had found its place there. In the skull was found a snail belonging to a genus now in existence in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and in the mouth a bone with a hole through it, as if it had been used as an ornament. From his investigations, the Professor inferred that the superineumbent mass of trachytic ashes and gravel in alternate layers, which was above the skull, belonged to the pliocene or post-pliocene epoch of geology, which indicates a much greater antiquity for man than has usually been assigned to him. places his creation anterior to the glacial epoch, and to the closing era of the voleanie eruptions in California. time that has elapsed since the deposition of the skull cannot be stated in years. An approximation can only be eiphered out by archaeologists and geologists, after long study of the circumstances connected with its deposition.

GOOD.

Coin bussness looking up.

THE UNIQUE WASHINGTON CENT.

Wm. Few Smith, Esq., of Camden, N. J., is the lucky proprietor of the unique Washington coin, described in a previous number of this Magazine. This gentleman is said to have the finest collection of cents in the country, and judging by the few specimens of the early dates, we have seen, we feel little hesitation, in saying there is good reason for this statement.

PECULIARITIES OF AMERI-CAN COINS.

We are preparing a new series of papers in reference to the types and varieties of American Coinage, (entirely disconnected from the series so ably edited by \$), and shall commence the initiatory number with the 1793 cent, to be followed in chronological order, until the series are complete.

TYPES AND VARIETIES OF THE 1793 CENT.

We are preparing an article for publication in this journal, concerning the distinct types and varieties, of the U.S. Cent of 1793. If the reader, subscriber, or friends of either, have in their possession, or know of a 1793 cent, from which a rubbing ean be obtained, and will take the trouble, to send us on the impression, we will be very thankful for their kindness. wish to give the owner's name of every distinct type, or noticeable variation -obverse or reverse-and, if within our means, to present a cut of each cent, with the variation pointed out by notes and references.

Send on rubbings of any and all cents of the above date, from which a distinct impression can be obtained. It is our purpose, also, to follow up the

complete series of cents, 1793 to 1857, and give all the types and varieties of each.

THE RANDALL COIN SALE.

A full account of this sale will appear in the next number. From present appearances, the sale will be well attended, and no doubt prove successful in a pecuniary point of view. Catalogues have been forwarded to every subscriber of this magazine. The early date of going to press, (October 25th), prevents any extended remarks, in reference to the coin sale, as all calculations of attendance, success, &c., are based upon supposition. Our readers can have a priced catalogue of this sale, upon remitting one dollar to this office.

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN N.Y.

Nov., 1867.—Continued. Part I. American Series.

PATTERN PIECES. (Continued.)

Feuchtwanger's Three Cent Piece, 1837, arms of New York; very fine, almost proof, scarce. \$1 50.

Feuchtwanger's Cents, 1837, five pieces, all fine, different varieties. 25e.

Feuchtwanger's Cent, struck from two reverse dies, "One Cent" on both sides; very fine, rare. \$1.75.

Half-Cents worth of pure copper, 1837, fine. 10c.

Flying Eagle Dollar, 1838; original, brilliant proof, extremely rare. \$4500

Half-Dollar, 1838; obv. head of Liberty; rev. a flying eagle; one of the earliest impressions, being from the die before it was injured by breaking, brilliant proof, rare. \$6 00.

Half-Dollar, 1838, head of Liberty; rev. spread eagle; brilliant proof, rare. \$8 50.

Half-Dollar, 1838, Liberty seated; rev. flying eagle; brilliant proof. One of the rarest of the Pattern series, brought in the McCoy sale \$59. \$25.

Half-Dollar, 1838, Liberty seated; rev. an eagle, engraved by Gobrecht, holding in the right talon an olive branch, and in the left four arrows, "United States of America, Half-Dollar." Proof, very rare. \$83 00.

Half-Dollar, 1838, Liberty seated; rev. eagle with shield, olive branch in the right talon, three arrows in the left, "United States of America, 50 Cents." Having never seen, or heard of this piece, I believe it to be quite as rare as the preceding, brilliant proof. \$75.00.

[The five lots last described constitute the only known set of pattern half-dollars of this date].

Flying Eagle Dollar, 1839; brilliant proof, original, and exceedingly rare. \$35 00.

Half-Dollars, 1839; head of Liberty, surrounded by stars, dies by Gobrecht; splendid proof in silver, one of the rarest of the Patterns. \$25 00.

Three Cent Piece, 1849; obv. like the Half-Dime; rev. figure 3; brilliant proof, extremely rare. \$6 50.

Three Cent Piece, 1849; obv. like the last; rev. III.; splendid proof, fifty per eent, silver, rare. \$7 50.

Gold Ring Dollar, 1849; square hole in the centre, fine proof, rare, \$6 50.

Gold Ring Dollar, 1850; obv. "United States of America;" rev. plain; extremely rare. \$13 50.

Gold Ring Half-Dollar, 1850; design similar to the last, extremely rare. \$6.00.

Three Cent Piece, 1850, Liberty eap; proof, rare. \$2 25.

Ring Cent, 1850, one tenth silver, original proof, very rare. \$1 25.

Ring Cent, 1850, without date; proof, rare. \$2.50.

Trial impression from the reverse die of the Pattern Half-Dollar of 1838, the Gobrecht eagle. \$1.25.

Pattern Three Cent Piece, a eireular piece of metal stamped III. \$1 12.

Pattern Cent of the same design as the last, and equally beautiful one of the rarest of Pattern Pieces. \$100.

Half-Eagle, 1843, struck in copper. 50c.

Quarter-Dollar, 1844, struck in eopper. 38e.

Dollar, 1851; a splendid original impression, extremely rare. \$30 00.

Cent, 1851; obv. Liberty seated; rev. "1 eent," within a wreath; nickely very fine indeed, and rare. \$1.25.

Niekel Planehet for striking the last piece. 25c.

Ring Dollar, 1852; splendid proof in gold, original and very rare. \$5.50

Ring Dollar, 1852, "U. S. A.;" pattern for a Gold Dollar, struck in silver; proof, rare. \$3 25.

Three Cent Piece, 1853, eoined April 10th; the first coinage of this denomination, of standard silver; none issued for some time after. 25c.

Cent, 1853; obv. head of Liberty: rev. "One Cent" within a wreath; nickel, proof, rare, \$3.00.

Half Dime of 1854; struck on a thick Nickel planchet, similar to that used for striking the last piece; unique, \$3.12

Cent, 1854, head of Liberty; splendid proof, searce. \$1 75.

IMPEACHMENT TICKETS.

A few sets of these tiekets, (original). ean be had at \$1 per set of four colors, or 50e. each.

HISTORY OF AMERICAN MEDALS.

This work is nearly completed, and will be commenced in the January number.

ROWLAND HILL NOT THE FIRST DEVISER OF A PENNY POST.

It may be fondly imagined by some of our readers that Sir Rowland Hill was the first deviser of a penny post. Nothing can be further from the truth. He took up an old idea, worked it out zealously, and brought it to a successful issue. As far back as 1683, one Robert Murray, an enterprising upholsterer, of London, bethought himself of a new way to make a fortune, and set up a penny post in the City. Though there were no Spooners or Whalleys in Parliament in those days, yet the ultra-Protestant party denounced it as "a device of the Jesuits," and vowed that Mr. Murray's bags, if opened, would be found to be full of Roman Bulls and Papal Indulgences. Whether this outcry alarmed him we know not; but Murray appears to have assigned his idea and "plant" to a man named Dockwra, who, though prosecuted by the Crown for invading its monopoly, contrived to hold his own so far as to get a pension of £200, and with it the Controllership of the "London District Post," of which Murray must be regarded as the found-But before many years were over, Mr. Dockwra was suspended on acount of complaints, among which was one to the effect that "many a time he had hazarded the life of a patient when physic was sent by a doctor or apothecary." It appears, then that, while we send only boxes of pills and powders, the penny post of 200 years ago would carry draughts from St. Bartholomew's to the Strand or to Westminster.—London Times.

PECULIARITIES OF AMERI-CAN COINS, No.9 Received too late for this number.

NEW ISSUES.

FINLAND.

Helsingfors local has had its colors changed, though not for the better. The green portion of the original stamp has been altered to brown; a blue bar replacing the red one.

VENEZUELA.

The ½ centavo, ½ real, and 1 real current are now circulated with the peculiar scallop perforation adopted by some of the La Guaira labels.

URUGUAY.

The green 10 centesimos of the existing type, with value impressed on the figure, is found in some instances erroneously printed CENIECIMOS.

INDIA.

We have to announce a new S anna stamp for our India empire; differing very slightly from the superseded stamp in apearance. The color, &c., is much as before, with the elephant watermark; the ear of Her Majesty's profile is not quite so conspicuous as before, and the crown is not like that formerly depicted.

SUEZ CANAL COMPANY.

One of our Parisian contemporaries announces the appearance of a series of half a dozen locals issued by this company. He concludes they are provisionals, promising further information on the subject next month.

The adhesive labels are four in number, poorly lithographed in color, on plain white unwatermarked paper, and are imperforate. They imitate in shape the current Egyptians; a central transverse oval bears a steamer, and the inscription CANAL MARITIME above, DE SUEZ below; beneath which is the word POSTES; figures of value stand

at each angle, values and colors:

1 eentime, black.

5 " green.

20 " blue.

40 " pink.

The use of these stamps is strictly local; confined to the inhabitants of the towns that have sprung up and been populated by the various classes of workmen employed during the progress of the works. The company had hitherto undertaken the correspondence of its dependents gratuitously, but have lately determined on realizing a profit thereby; hence the origin of these adhesives.

RUSSIA.

The 20 kopee Russian envelopes, in lieu of blue as hitherto, are now printed pearl-grey.

QUEENSLAND.

The lilac fourpenny of this colony, so recently emitted, is said to be now slate eolored.

STRIATS SETTLEMENTS.

Pale brown (usually called bistre by the French writers, which by the way is one of the darkest browns found in our color boxes) seems a fashionable shade at present for postage stamps. The current 2 cents of British Columbia adopted it; and the same ineffective hue has been chosen for the same value in the permanent issue for the Malacca peninsular and ajacent territory. Some of the lower valued provisionals of the Settlements, we understand, are still in active service.

DANUBIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COM-PANY.

The 10 soldi of this eompany, formerly lilac, has now donned a green coat.

PORTUGAL.

The perforated labels of this Kingdom have received an accession by the adjunction of the green 50 reis, which will be prepared also similarly for the dependencies of Madeira and the Azores.—Philatelist,

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

A new appearance for Haiti 25c. postes. It is much more likely to be deceptive than genuine. The stamp is printed in pale yellow on plain white paper.

TRINIDAD.

The green sixpenny of this island sometimes bears the words too LATE repeated, forming a St. Andrew's Cross. Pace the Pendragonites, this will form a recognized variety; and very probably careful examination will discover a shilling stamp similarly modified.

GREECE.

We read it authoritatively announced that Greece has joined France, Italy, Switzerland, and Servia in adopting a decimal coinage. A new issue of postage stamps in accordance therewith may therfore be confidently expected.

BOLIVIA.

The exquisite stamps of this republic are reported to have an accession in a black one of the existent type, bearing the strange value five hundred centavos!

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A totally changed series of stamps is said to be actually in preparation for this colony. We hope they will be really perforated; not rouletted in the wretched way now used, rendering a perfect specimen of rare occurrence.

PARAGUAY.

The new 5 centavos stamp of this country has been doubted and certified by turns. The matter may now be finally settled on the side of acceptation, by the existence of a paragraph in a Paraguayan newspaper noticing its admission, and actually giving the designer's name.

FRANCE.

Our previsions with respect to this country in another part of this magaznie have been verified by the issue of the 40 centimes, laureated type; and we are confidently informed, that the 5e. green will have made its appearance under a similar guise, ere the publication of the present number. There will then remain the 1 centime only to complete the imperial laureated series.

ST. HELENA.

A small number of the perforated sixpenny of this island have found their way hither, betokening the total exhaustion of the unperforated stock which so long continued to puzzle collectors.

NORWAY.

An unpretending local for Bergen is out, which we forbear fully chronicling till further information shall be received respecting it. It bears a large figure of value on a white ground.

NATAL.

The color of the penny stamps of this colony is again changed. They are now of a rich deep pink.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The 4 cents, same type as the new current 6 cents, has just appeared: it is bright pink.

MEXICO.

Several additions must be made to the overgrowing list of postal impressions for this country. To the round

Guadalajara set must be added a 2 reales pink, dated 1867; a 2r. lilac, on plain and on fancy paper, the former of the same date, the latter being 1868; a 1 peso on plain paper, 1867; and a 4 reales on bluish tint. The 5 centavos bearing Maximilian's head is found engraved, without inscription; and of the original Hidalgo type are known a 🚦 r. grey, a 1 r. black on green, 2 r. black on pink, and 4 r. red on yellow; all both with and without the Gothic letter inscriptions. There is also to be catalogued a 4 r. of the 3rd emission, red on yellow, having MEXTCO misprinted by error of the compositor.

MAURITIUS.

To prevent collectors falling victims to the forgery of the long disused envelope of the Mauritius, chronicled last month, we purpose giving in our next number a correct representation of the falsity. Postage-stamp forgery must be a thriving trade, if we may judge from the enormous number in circulation. During a recent tour through some of the French provincial towns, we were horrified at the quanity of sheets filled with falsities, audaciously exposed for sale. Even in Paris, except at the regular well-known and accredited dealers, there are many more impostures than realities on view.—Philatelist.

DESCRIPTION OF A UNIQUE WASHINGTON PIECE.

(In possession of W. F. S. Phila). Doverse.—Legend, "GEN. WASH-INGTON." Head facing right; hair in knot or queue; bust in military dress. Reverse.—Legend, "E. Pluribus Unum." Spread eagle with head to right, having open beak, right talon grasping an olive branch, and in left, thunderbolts: thirteen stars surrounding head; date 1791, considerably worn.

The whole piece is in fair condition.

POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTORS'							Envelope Stamps.				
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9 d	66		brown	30	6	1-10	66	66	orange	45	8
1 s	"		green	40	1	3 pfe	nnage	,	rose	20	15

#### TO PHILATELISTS.

Arrangements have been made for a great improvement in the Stamp Department of this journal. We have secured the services of a capable and energetic gentleman, whose knowledge of stamps cannot be excelled in America, and who will take entire charge of the stamp business.

#### WANTED!

We wish to obtain a few copies of the Catalogue of Mickley's Collection, sold by auction, October 28, 1867. Three Dollars in coins, will be given for each copy—priced or unpriced.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Columbus Ga., Oct. 13th, 1868. Mason & Co.,

I forward you by mail the first volume of your magazine. In your last number, you expressed a desire to secure several complete volumes, offering as an inducement, your second volume, in return. On these terms, I send the first to you. Do not for a moment suppose that I send it because I attach no importance to them. I consider my action in doing so, as really deserving of praise, for the self sacrificing spirit manifested.

Like many others in our unfortunate section of country, my means are limited. Too often, our pleasures and amusements have to be set aside, or sacrificed to honest duty.

Believe me gentlemen. I fully appreciate the merits and the mission, of your magazine, and no one can more heartily desire your success than I. Can I do nothing in your line of business, that would forward your interest here?

F. H. T.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE.

S. R., CHICAGO.—Sent you first Impeachment Tickets. Could not spare more at the time. Have now a few sets. Shall we send more?

T. A., Jr., Washington, D. C.—We bought all the tickets we could find in private hands. Will pay 20c. each. If you can possibly raise us ten sets do so. We are run down with orders. Unfortunately we sent one hundred tickets to England.

R. O.; E. P. B.; S. T.; N. D. L.; P. V. Jr. and Others.—Your tickets will be sent immediately. Can spare you one each. We expect to raise the price in a short time, as we cannot obtain a supply.

MRS. P. C. R., NEWARK.—Club received—magazines sent October 25. We embrace female numismatists in our catalogue of collectors. Your party is the first organized of the "other sex" in the U. S. Success attend you, and may each one of the club realise happiness and profit from the delightful study of numismatology.

G. M. P., Troy.—Send us on all the rubbings of all the different '93 cents, you can have access to. We also wish to obtain rubbings of the different varieties of all other dates of the U. S. copper cents. We hope our correspondents, will favor us with their assistance, in making the "History of Varieties" as complete as possible.

W. P., Boston.—We do not know that W. E. W. of Roxbury, is a coin dealer, but have heard such is the fact. Write to him for information.

S. H. L. NEWBURYPORT.—The sale will embrace about nine hundred lots. We shall price a few catalogues at \$1 each after the sale.

L. R. H., WASHINGTON.—The stamps you describe are Essays; worth about 25c. each.

- H. A., Jr., New York.—\$750 was the highest price any U. S. coin reached at a public sale—1804 Dollar.
- T. T. B., HARTFORD.—Can send you any kind of stamp album you require.
- L. W. D., St. Louis.—Regret the sad aecident which happened you. Hope to hear of your speedy recovery. Have written in reply to communication of Mr. George.
- P. S., DAYTON, O.—Every piece in the Randall coin sale warranted genuine, unless otherwise described in catalogue.
- R. A. R., Newark.—There is a genuine ten cent rose stamp, (confederate); also a one cent yellow stamp.
- S. V., PORTLAND.—Can send you a few sets of Impeachment Tickets; but not the number you require, as the demand will soon exceed the supply—judging by the orders daily received.
- Miss L. A.S.—Your collection of stamps worth about fifteen dollars. Will forward the album and tickets, as soon as we hear from you.
- R. R., New York.—The unique Washington eent has been sold to a prominent collector in Camden, who values it at \$300. See notice elsewhere.
- M. M., Boston.—Bids received. We have received bids amounting to about five hundred dollars, and a portion of these bids may not be bona-fide. Ten per cent is not too large a profit, for parties bearing the entire responsibility of purchases.

Teller, Pittsburg.—We have 1811 half cents for you. There is a prospect of another sale sometime in December. Watch the magazine for particulars. We are pushing matters for an early opening in N. Y.

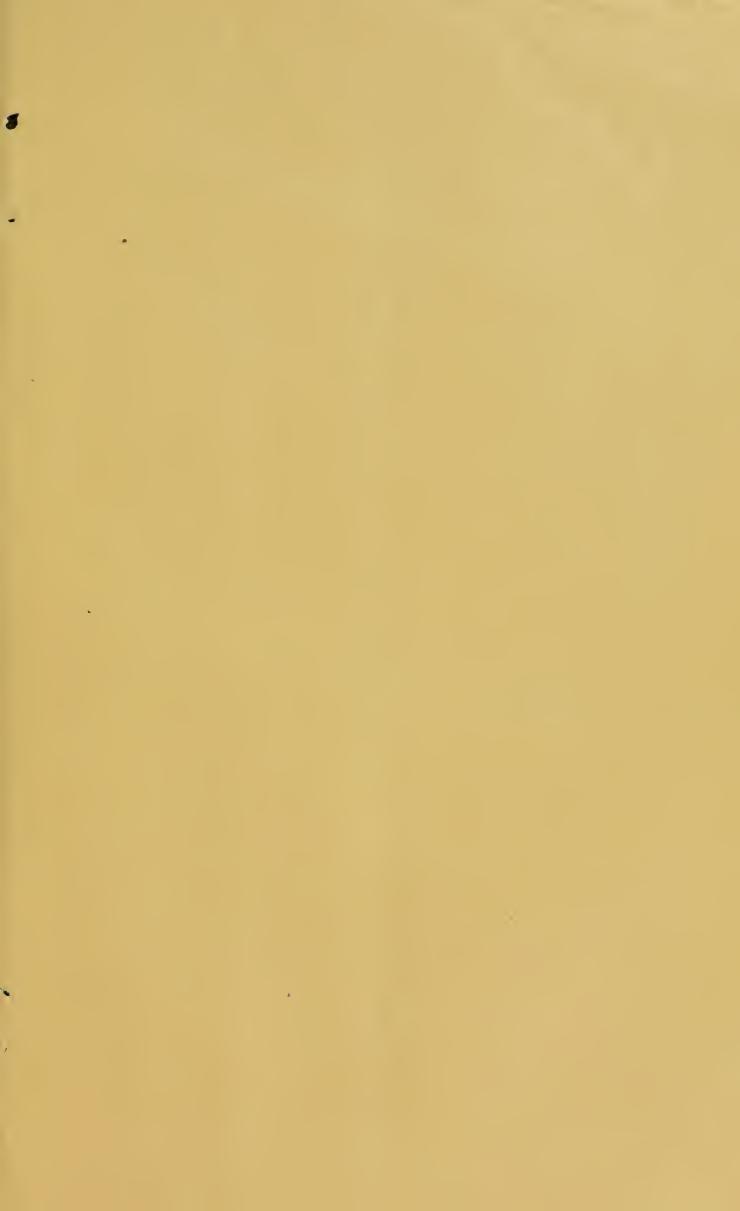
R. M. W.—Have written you. An excellent chance offers for some person, understanding the business to take the Philadelphia department, and carry on the same with our aid and advice. Think of it. We require sufficient money to cover stock and fixtures. No bonus asked. It is our purpose to open a large Coin and Stamp Depot in N. Y. as soon as possible. Our prospective partner, was badly injured in St. Louis, being struck with a "Dumb Bell," near the temple. The injury may prove fatal.

#### PARTNER WANTED!

The gentleman who was to join us November 1st, having met with a serious—perhaps fatal accident—will not be able to take an interest in our business. This leaves us in rather a perplexing position, as we had our work, (an improvement in the magazine), laid out for the new partner, who was in every way qualified for the task. We again ask for a partner, having some knowledge of coins, or stamps. A good chance for a good man.

### RARE OPPORTUNITY.

Wishing to remove our business to New York, we are prepared to arrange with a good, active and industrious man, to take the entire control of the Coin and Stamp business in this city. A good stock of Coins and Stamps; good fixtures, iron safe, &c., and a good location at a low rent. Whoever takes this chance, will have the advantage of connecting with the New York Office, and will be supplied with, coins, stamps and publicatious, necessary for the successful prosecution of A few hundred dolthe enterprise. lars required.



## J. COLVIN RANDALL'S

#### COLLECTION OF YALUABLE COINS.

#### Public Sale, $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{t}$

On Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 28th and 29th,

COMMENCING AT 3 P. M.

AT THE ROOMS OF

THOMAS BIRCH & SON, 1110 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

This valuable Cabinet of Coinsincludes U. S. Silver Dollars. Halves, Quarters, Dimes, Half Dimes, Three-cent pieces, Patterns, Colonials, Medals, Washington Pieces, Cents, Half Cents, Foreign Silver and Copper Medals, Coins, &c

Many rare and very fine Coins will be found in this collection. Also, some brilliant Proof sets, and other proof pieces.

Catalogues furnished on application to the Auctioneers, or to

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth St., Philadelphia.

Coins on Exhibition at 9 A. M., each day of Sale.

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